167

18

Sunday Evening

My Dear Fanny

I forgot the last time I saw you to ask whether you could spare me the two London Magazines with the 'English Opium-Eater' in. I do not want them for myself, but Mr Brown, awkward enough, came for them the very day I sent them to you; as it was of no immediate consequence, I would not unpack them, particularly as I thought he might as well get them from the library. a day or two ago he mentioned them again, so, if you have read them I will send the carrier any day you like, but do not hurry, he only wants to consult something in them, which I

have no doubt will be in as good time a month hence. The next time I come to see you I will be earlier whether Mrs Dilke is with me or not. that is what makes me dislike bringing her she likes me to set out from her house and I know she cannot be ready in time. I am very bad, but I can get ready on some occasions for instance, whenever I have come to see you it has been generally early enough A few nights after, my brother and I went to the play with her and when we got there the first act was nearly over: exactly this time twelvemonth we went with her to the same place and just at the same time. To the end of all this I must however take a little exception. that except Mrs Dilke I am the worst person in the world for being ready

you are a naughty girl for what little of your
rks you can read you never tell me a word about.
I hope you will not from my asking for the two books,
hurry (with the rest for you are perfectly welcome
to them for years. which is saying nothing for nobody
returns a Pamphlet or newspaper under nine months.
How I liked that shy question about Mr. Gutierez
that morning. I did not dare look up for fear of
laughing but it amused me to see how people
commit themselves by trying to see through others.
I felt so glad I had told, because I thought it
must have delighted you as it did me. It was
quite a scene — How very delightful it would be
to have you with me tonight. I am quite alone. I
am always glad to get my family out (to provoke me

they scarcely ever go/ and then highly favored indeed
is the person I would wish for or even admit. Th
is one and only one person in the world besides you
that I would admit tonight and her coming is
about as possible as yours. So you see you are hig
favored — I was asked out to tea by some frien
who thought I must feel lonely — for my part I tho
people are all mad —— Tomorrow night I am g
to the play and I think you will own I like it by the
trouble I take, for I am obliged to walk to town,
meet my brother; and walk home with him at ni
because at certain parts of the year (that is, a mon
or two after quarter day) we can neither of us afford t
ride — I remain my dear Fanny's
very affectionate Frances Brawn